

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 3104

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, CY, GR

SUBJECT: CYPRUS: UNIFCYP REDUCTIONS

REFS: ATHENS 2872, STATE 98276 AND 91875

1. SUMMARY. GOG NOW OPPOSES FURTHER UNFICYP REDUCTIONS IN EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCES AND DESIRES TO MAINTAIN UNFICYP MANDATE IN PRESENT FORM. IT THEREFORE SUPPORTS UNSYG POSITION. IT ALSO IS CONCERNED THAT IN PRESENT STATE OF GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS GREEK SUPPORT FOR FURTHER REDUCTIONS WOULD BE REGARDED BY GOT AS MOVE AGAINST TURK CYPRIOT COMMUNITY. GOG VIEWS YEROSKIPOS ARMS THEFT AS UNFORTUNATE, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE OF GOG EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN MODERATE ELEMENTS IN CYPRUS. END SUMMARY.

2. MFA CYPRUS COUNTRY DIRECTOR METAXAS TOLD EMBOFFS MAY 22 THAT WHILE GOG CONTINUES NOT TO HAVE "STRONG" VIEWS ON FUTURE UNFICYP REDUCTION, FOR PRACTICAL AND IMMEDIATE REASONS IT NOW OPPOSES PLAN FOR SUCH REDUCTIONS AND DEFINITELY PREFERS NO CHANGE IN UNFICYP MANDATE GIVEN UNCERTAINTIES ON ISLAND AND CURRENT TENSIONS IN GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS. METAXAS SAID GOG ATTACHED
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PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO SYG WALDHEIM'S POSITION AGAINST

REDUCTION SINCE IT REFLECTED PRACTICAL ADVICE OF UNFICYP COMMANDER AND UN POLITICAL ADVISOR. METAXAS ADDED THAT GOG WANTS TO AVOID UNCOMFORTABLE POSITION OF BEING TARGET OF ACCUSATIONS THAT GOG FAVORS REDUCTIONS AT EXPENSE OF SAFETY OF TURK CYPRIOT COMMUNITY THAT ARGUABLY WOULD THEN BE PLACED IN MORE EXPOSED POSITION RELATIVE TO GREEK CYPRIOTS. REINFORCING POINT RE PROBLEM OF TURK CYPRIOT COMMUNITY, HE NOTED GOG ALSO OPPOSES FURTHER UNFICYP REDUCTIONS. METAXAS CHARACTERIZED GOG POSITION AS NOT REPRESENTING MAJOR CHANGE IN GREEK POSITION BUT AS REFLECTING VIEW THAT COMMITMENT TO FUTURE REDUCTIONS AT THIS TIME WOULD BE UNDESIRABLE AND PARTICULARLY PROPOSAL TO ALTER AND REDUCE UNFICYP MANDATE. EMBASSY POLITICAL COUNSELOR REVIEWED USG POSITION ON FURTHER REDUCTIONS PER STATE 98276 WHICH METAXAS SAID HE UNDERSTOOD CLEARLY AND HAD SHARED WITH "OTHER DEPARTMENTS" IN DISCUSSIONS ON NEW GOG ATTITUDE.

3. RESPONDING TO EMBASSY'S QUESTION ON GOG REACTION TO RESUMPTION OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 4, METAXAS SAID GOG VIEWED RELAUNCHING TALKS AS POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT BUT WAS ALSO AWARE THAT IF TURKISH SIDE SO DESIRES IT COULD EASILY INTERJECT DIFFICULTIES. FOR EXAMPLE, IF TURKS RETURNED TO "TOTALLY INACCEPTABLE" FEDERAL LINE TALKS WOULD STALL AGAIN. METAXAS' PERSONAL VIEW WAS THAT TECHNICAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL DISCUSSIONS COULD PRODUCE RESULTS, AFTER WHICH POLITICAL FRAMEWORK AND SUITABLE BROAD LANGUAGE COULD BE DEVELOPED. HOWEVER, HE WAS CLEARLY SKEPTICAL ABOUT WHETHER EITHER MAKARIOS OR TURKS COULD BE BROUGHT ALONG IF TALKS PROGRESSED TO THIS POINT SO HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT OUTLOOK FOR INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS. READING FROM FILE METAXAS COMMENTED THAT ACTUAL LANGUAGE AGREED UPON FOR RESUMPTION OF TALKS INVOLVED ELEMENT OF COMPROMISE IN THAT TURKS INSISTED ON MENTION OF AIDE MEMOIRES OF 1971 AND 1972 WHICH GOG FOUND UNOBJECTIONABLE AS LONG AS BASIS FOR INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS REMAINED UNCHANGED AND THESE DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO ONLY AS BACKGROUND.

4. TURNING TO CYPRIOT PRESS COVERAGE OF YEROSKIPOS INCIDENT AND ITS ATTACKS ON NATIONAL GUARD, METAXAS DESCRIBED CYPRUS PRESS CAMPAIGN AS TYPICAL MANIFESTATION OF CYPRIOT POLITICS, WITH LEFTISTS USING ARMS THEFT TO SUPPORT THEIR OWN PROPAGANDA. THIS IN TURN INVITED RIGHTIST REACTION. RESULT WAS MOST UNFORTUNATE

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HARDENING OF POSITIONS OF EXTREMES. METAXAS ASSERTED THAT GOG CONTINUES TO SEEK TO REDUCE POSSIBILITY OF EXTREMISTS PROFITING IN SUCH SITUATIONS AND CONSISTENTLY DIRECTS ITS EFFORTS TOWARD STRENGTHENING "CENTER, MODERATE, BOURGEOIS" ELEMENTS. HE ADDED THAT AMBASSADOR LAGAKOS HAS WORKED FOR MONTHS TO THIS END AND IN FEBRUARY HAD ALMOST SUCCEEDED IN MOVING EOKA-B INTO EXCLUSIVELY POLITICAL POSTURE. HE REPEATED THAT GREEK EFFORTS IN CYPRUS REFLECTED ESTABLISHED GOG POLICY TO STRENGTHEN MIDDLE GROUND WITH

RESULTANT DIMINUTION OF THREATS FROM LEFT (LYSSARIDES ARMED BANDS INCLUDED) AND RIGHT.

5. COMMENTING ON MAKARIOS' VISIT TO PEKING, METAXAS DOUBTED THAT USSR WOULD LOOK KINDLY ON MAKARIOS' FLIRTATION WITH CHINA. HE ALLUDED ELLIPTICALLY TO SPECIFIC PROTOCOL EVENTS DURING LATTER'S VISIT THAT WOULD ANNOY USSR. METAXAS ADDED THAT VISIT ILLUSTRATED ARCHBISHOP'S DESIRE TO MAXIMIZE HIS OPTIONS, WITH PEKING VISIT IN GREEK VIEW AN AFFRONT TO RIGHT, EOKA-B AND CONSERVATIVE POLITICAL ELEMENTS BUT BALANCING AKEL IRRITATION AT ARMS THEFT AND NATIONAL GUARD ACTIVITIES.

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